2g.>

This evening the shells bought yesterday have come. I spend a long time gazing at them and learn to understand them deeply. Certainly I could more easily have made of myself a naturalist, a doctor, or a pianist than I am succeeding in making a writer — but it just happens that I can bring to this career more varied qualities. The other careers would have had to be more exclusive; but it is to this one that I must bring the most will to bear — because I am not as naturally gifted for it as for the others (and the proof is that this is very badly put).

5 *December*

A vicious grippe has kept me in bed the last two days. However, I was unable to call off the meeting at the Villa of the group of the N.R.F. and they have each in turn come into my room for a few minutes' talk. Thanks to Paul Des jardins, I think that the readings with commentaries that I was planning are going to shape up rather well.

Dominique Drouin brings me a little notebook written by his classmates — which interests me greatly.

One of these children of twelve thought up a questionnaire (or more precisely he pinched this questionnaire from a slightly older cousin, and several of them amused themselves by filling it out).

Here are the questions, some of them inept and others rather significant. I am copying faithfully:

1. What is your motto?
2. Who is your best friend?
3. What is the dominant trait of your character?
4. What vocation would you like to have?
5. How would you prefer to die?
6. What is your favorite book?
7. What real-life hero do you prefer?
8. Where do you most like to be?
9. What is your idea of happiness?
10. What is your idea of unhappiness?
11. What is the quality that you prefer?

Etc. . . .

I notice without surprise that detective novels and the heroes of aviation are at the top.

But this is odder: out of fourteen children questioned, four answer

"marriage" to question No. 10: **Wliat is your idea of imhappiness?"
Only two attach the idea of marriage to happiness: a foreigner (Russian) and a Jew (J. Sachs).

Among those who link the idea of happiness with that of the single state, one (E. Weiss), a Protestant (considerably older, it seems), replies: *sensitivity* to the question: "What is the dominant trait of your